



Committee and date
Bowbrook, Copthorne and
Radbrook LJC

Wednesday 25th September.
2013

7.00 p.m.

Item/Paper

11

Public

DECISION REPORT – GRANT APPLICATIONS

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Summary

This report considers applications for grant funding submitted to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee (LJC) for 2013/14.

After the last meeting on 5.3.13 £1000 was allocated from the 2012/13 budget leaving £21,701 remaining. A budget of £15,193 was allocated for the year 2013/14 making £36,894 available for this financial year. The applications now under consideration are set out in the report.

Recommendations

Delegated authority.

The following decisions have been made utilising the Committees delegated authority since the last meeting.

12.4.13

PCC Christ Church Shelton and Oxon Community Hall
For additional storage facilities.

£320

2.5.13

Shelton Cricket Club
Materials to construct sight screens

£678

Shelton Playing Fields Association
Improving access and parking facilities

£500

18.6.13

Bowbrook Allotment Community
Two additional storage sheds

£400

Total

£1898

Budget remaining

£34,996

It is recommended to the Bowbrook, Copthorne and Radbrook Local Joint Committee that the following decisions are made on the submitted application:

1. Beacon Cricket Club is a developing and expanding local club which has its origins on the LJC area at the Beacon Pub. Unfortunately they lost their venue at Shrewsbury Barracks and for the last couple of years have been based at the County Cricket Ground in Frankwell. They have about seventy members in the club and are about to develop a third team. About 30% of members come from the LJC area. The Club have already invested a great deal of time and effort in developing the facilities at the County Ground and they propose to continue this work in the future with the aim of developing the facilities and the opportunity for all local people to get involved in the sport. The current application is for purchase of portable cricket covers which will allow the Club to develop the quality of the playing surface and also to protect the wicket from wet weather so that matches are not cancelled or abandoned in the event of rain. Many other local cricket clubs use this facility and will also benefit from the covers.

This is a well-run Club supported by volunteers who provide a valuable facility and sporting opportunity in the Town for residents to both participate in or spectate. They have been in receipt of LJC funding in previous years and have worked in partnership with the Town Council who own the facility to make improvements. This is a worthy application in the Clubs efforts to improve this facility and would recommend that the LJC consider a contribution to the total cost of £4,850.

Summary.

Budget available	£34,996
This application	£ 4,850
Remaining	£30,146

Background

1. From 1 April 2009 Shropshire Council created 28 Local Joint Committees to operate across the whole of Shropshire. These LJC's are legally constituted decision making committees of Shropshire Council.
2. The LJC for the Bowbrook , Copthorne and Radbrook area has three members all of which are both Shropshire County Councillors and Shrewsbury Town Councillors and hold equal voting rights. The Chairperson in consultation with the other Committee members and the Community Action Officer has a delegated authority to make decisions outside of publicised meetings if it is appropriate and timely to do so.
3. One of the main responsibilities of the LJC is to determine expenditure of the devolved budget. A budget of £34,996 remains for 2013/14. Expenditure

against this budget is agreed by the Committee after consideration of decision reports with decisions determined by a simple majority.

Purposes of the funding

The funding devolved to the LJC can be used for a number of different purposes over the year. At the present time, the Committee has not allocated funds to any specific purposes but has indicated that it will receive applications from local organisations for eligible purposes. Funding by the LJC must comply with the general Financial Rules for LJC's that are attached to this report. Applications must demonstrate compliance with the following criteria:

- Expenditure must be consistent with achieving the aims, objectives and vision set out in Shropshire's Sustainable Community Strategy, the Council's Corporate Plans and local Neighbourhood or Parish Plans.
- Expenditure must be for activity within the geographical area of the Local Joint Committee.
- Expenditure must benefit the wider community and should not be used to fund a group which restricts membership based on views, beliefs etc. For example, it would not be appropriate to make a contribution to a religious group but a contribution to say, improvements to a church hall which is open for bookings from the wider community would be acceptable.
- The budget must not be spent on mainstream council activities, but can be used to enhance mainstream activities.
- The budget must not be a displacement of existing council funding. For example, a service cannot be reinstated from the local budget if the council has cut funding for it in the previous 3 years.
- The budget should not be used to meet ongoing staffing costs of an organisation.

Decision-making procedure

4. The LJC elected Members will decide on applications for funding and their decisions will be taken in public, following the process below:
 - a written report by the Community Action Officer, setting out the details of applications received and recommending a course of action;
 - a brief verbal introduction to the applications, by the Community Action Officer, at the meeting;
 - questions by the elected Members of the officers and/or the applicants (if present);
 - elected Members take the decision.

A slightly different process will need to be taken if there are fewer than three elected Members present, as that is the number required to form a quorum.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

At this stage the recommendations are unlikely to result in any implications for the Human Rights Act.

Environmental Appraisal

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council needs to address the risk of legal challenge to decisions through procedural or other errors. This has been carefully assessed. There are no risks specifically relating to the applications.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Cabinet Member

Gwilym Butler

Local Members

Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council Peter Adams, Peter Nutting, Keith Roberts

Appendices

None